

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0015] on page 4, with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] The present embodiment comprises an algorithm that monitors the ink temperature and/or local ambient temperature, next to the heater and computes a correction coefficient that adjusts the supply power to the heater prior to the melt cycle. FIGURE 2 shows a thermistor device **50** associated with the plate **16** through thermistor pads **52**. The thermistor device is operatively connected with the control system **20** to provide a signal representative of a plate temperature near the location of the thermistor. The thermistor is thus disposed on a fin portion **60** of the plate spaced from the ink melt zone **32**. Although the thermistor device **50** is illustrated in the present embodiment for measuring a parameter representative of temperature, other well known known temperature sensing devices could be employed, i.e., thermometers, electrical sensors, chemical sensors or the like. The temperature sensed by the thermistor can be a parameter indicative of ambient temperature to the system or the ink stick temperature prior to the start of a melt duty cycle.